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The True Doctrine of Ultra Vires in the Law of Corporations. By Reuben A. Reese of the Colorado Bar. Law sheep, 338 pp. T. H. Flood & Company, Chicago, 1897.

Conflicting decisions in the courts have left the meaning of the expression "*ultra vires*" so hazy that perhaps Mr. Reese has as much reason as any other writer for calling his own doctrine the "true" one. His whole treatise proceeds upon the principle that a corporation, being entirely a creature of the law, absolutely *cannot* commit an act unauthorized by its charter. When he comes into contact with decided cases where acts of this nature have been sanctioned by courts of undoubted authority he experiences no little difficulty. A similar obstacle is encountered when he discusses the liability of a corporation for a tort committed by its officers or agents. While recognizing Mr. Reese's courage in so vigorously attacking a subject which has worsted so many good men, and his exhaustive study of the subject, as shown by his careful and elaborate annotations, we are yet compelled to say that in our humble judgment his doctrine is far from being the "true" one, and that his treatise has thrown very little light on this dark and involved subject.

A Treatise on the Criminal Law. By Emlin McClain, A.M., LL.D. Law sheep, two vols., 725 and 785 pp. Callaghan & Company, Chicago, 1897.

A new and valuable feature is introduced in the above work, which consists in treating along with any particular crime the forms of pleading proper to the case, and the evidence which may be adduced by prosecution or defense. The reader is thus enabled to review almost at a glance the corresponding portions of criminal law, criminal procedure, and evidence. The book is well written and the typographical work irreproachable.

The General Digest, New Series, Volume Second. Law sheep, 1,329 pp. Lawyers' Coöperative Publishing Company, Rochester, N. Y., 1897.

The volume just issued is the second in the new series, and covers the latter part of the year 1896. The size is smaller than that of the volumes in the former series and the book is much easier to handle. The digesting is as thoroughly done as in former issues and this is the highest praise we could give it.